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THE DISEASES OF THE TIMES

OR,

THE DISTEMPERS OF THE COMMON-WEALTH.

England K.

Succinctly describing each particular Disease wherin the Kingdome is troubled.

Contracted into these Heads, *viz.*

1. *The Immedicable tumour of Faction.*
2. *The strange diffusion of Brownianisme.*
3. *The stupendeous inundaton of Heresie.*
4. *The desperate swelling of obstinacy.*
5. *The dangerous disease of Feminine divinity.*
6. *The aspiring ambition of presumption.*
7. *The audacious height of disobedience.*
8. *The painted deceitfulnesse of hypocrisie.*

London, printed for *R. T.*

THE DISEASES OF THE TIMES

OR,

THE DISTEMPERS OF THE COMMON-WEALTH.

Succinctly declaring each particular Disease of
Mentionable Kingdome at this day.

Contracted into these Heads, viz.

1. The [illegible]
2. The [illegible]
3. The [illegible]
4. The [illegible]
5. The [illegible]
6. The [illegible]
7. The [illegible]
8. The [illegible]

London, printed for [illegible]

The Diſeaſes of the Times.

When with mature deliberation I ſeriouſly ponder & conſider the promiſcuous multiplicity of Diſtempers, wherein this Kingdome is dangerouſly involved, I conceive it to be reduced into ſuch a miſcellaneous laborynth of Faction and ſchiſme that I may without any ſcrupulous dubitation freely confeſſe with *Seneca, Nunc vere vivimus in inquinatis temporum faecibus*; we now truely live in the polluted dregs of time. Yet there was not long ſince a Pamphlet (for I may without offence ſo give it that appellation) divulged to the publike ſpectacle of the World, intituled, *A medicine for the Times*, but I thinke him an unskilfull Phyſitian, that ſhall apply a Medicine before he hath ſearched out the Diſeaſe; yet I confeſſe it was well mixed, and of a ſtrong operation too, had it bin rightly taken; it had excellent Compounds, but onely it was a little too much troubled with

stinging astimulations of conscientiall Physicke. But although it may seeme preposterous to proceed in explicating of the diseases, since the medicine hath beene applyed before; yet I will lanch the wounds afresh, that they may heale the better: First then to begin with the Immedicable tumour of Faction, it swels so extreamely big in the Universall sight of all, that it becomes a heart-sore to al true-hearted protestants, it imbroyders the Kingdome with such prodigious distractions, that the Church thereby is almost turned upside downe. Our streets swarme with the tumultuous division of Schisme, which makes thereby this Realme sicke of a quotidian Ague, and perplexeth the State extreamely. Secondly, wee come to the strange diffusion of Brownianisme; this Sect distur'es our Church infinitely, and as the evil spirit of their minds moves them, they are seduloufly imployed with the great exercising of their talent about Cheapside Crosse, that instead of preaching in Tubs, I hope some will suddenly preach in the pillory. Their Doctrine comes altogether by inspiration, and hereupon they doe so frequent the barnes and stables (a place onely for Oxen and Asses) that they doe exclude the former, and principally retaine the latter appellation to themselves. The times groan of this disease, and unlesse some sudden cure be remedied by the

parli-

Parliament, this will bring the Church quickly into a deep Consumption. Thirdly, we proceed to the stupendous inundation of Heresie, but our Common Pulpits doe so groane with this Malady, that the Church hereby hath almost contracted a surfeit. These Amsterdamian Zelots can breath five houres in a Text, and they delight not onely in Battologies, but also in tautologies, which makes them become so infamous and ridiculous to the World, that they are ludibrious spectacles of derision. Moreover, they *non solum multa, sed etiam sæpta erudant*: this Hell-nourished Heresie (for sure it must receive its original from thence, and be inspired from that sulphurous place of blinded ignorance) hath begot such a desperate disease in the Clergy, that tis almost growne to a dropsie. Fourthly, we come to the desperate swelling of obstinacy; this is a dangerous Disease, and withall carryes such a reluctancy with her, that it seemes incurable: The hearts of these obstinate persons are so Adamantine, that although they be confuted by the credible probability of common reason, yet they are so obdure, that nothing but their owne selfe-approved wayes can take any impression in them. Fifthly, the dangerous disease of Feminine Divinity, this is frequently heard in every Conventicle, whereof the Tubbes and Trees in most Woods doe ring; and there they

tattle lowder then they use to doe at Markets. These would reforme the Church, and under the pretence deforme it, but that will be a rare World when women shall weare the breeches, & men peticotes, this greatly tingleth in the eares of the world, Sixthly, we are arrived at the aspiring ambition of presumption; These superbious persons dare presume to snatch the Ministeriall Function from the mouthes of the Clergie, and dare say they are sent from Heaven, and inspired by the spirit, (of pride;) tis in vaine to enumerate the latitude of their presumption, for they dare, and will do any thing what they please: This sickness is very desperate, and will (if not castigated) contaminate the whole body. Seventhly, we are to describe the audacious height of Disobedience, wee may apparantly behold what infamous aspersions are daily cast on the superiour Magistrates, yea, some are so peremtory, that they dare even detract from the Kings Imperiall Throne and Regall Diademe; If this disease so ignominious, shamefull, and contagious continue incorrigible, it will exulcerate the whole Kingdome beside. Eighthly, and lastly, we come to the painted deceitfulnesse of Hypocrisie; this is too obvious in the publike view of the world, and those that under the colour of Religion would reforme the Church do wholly deforme it; These have the voice of *Iacob*, but the hand of *Esau*, and like a Candle, they show

a faire Light to others, but waſte and conſume themſelves in their owne pride. Theſe are the Diſeaſes, whereof theſe Times languiſh, and divers cures and Remedies for them may be perſpicuouſly ſeene in a Book, called, *A medicine for the Times.* And I hope the Parliament thoſe rare Phyſitians, will in due time heale all theſe Diſtempers.

FINIS.